

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
)	
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)	ORDER OF
)	
Claudia L. Anderson,)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate 144648)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 11, 2007. On September 19, 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Claudia L. Anderson a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension of her South Carolina professional educator certificate 144648 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. Ms. Anderson received the notice letter on October 1, 2007, as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Anderson did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to order the suspension of Ms. Anderson's certificate for a one-year period.

FINDINGS OF FACT

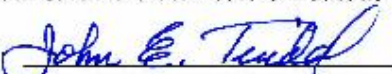
Ms. Anderson holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate with over twenty-one years of teaching experience. During the 2006-2007 school year, Ms. Anderson was employed by the Horry County School District (District) as a visual arts teacher at Loris Middle School (School). On May 3, 2007, the District placed Ms. Anderson on administrative leave following allegations that on May 2, 2007, Ms. Anderson placed a student's hands on his head after the student had put Elmer's glue on his hands. The photographs taken showed that the glue was spread throughout

the student's hair and partially on his face. On May 29, 2007, the Superintendent informed Ms. Anderson that he was recommending her termination for this conduct. Ms. Anderson subsequently resigned from her employment with the District and retired.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004), 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). The State Board finds that the information presented by the Department supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Anderson's certificate for a period of one year, through December 10, 2008. If Ms. Anderson wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must make a written request to the Department's Office of Educator Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By 
John E. Tindal
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 11, 2007